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TRANSFORMATION OF ACCOUNTING FUNCTIONS AND TASKS IN THE CONTEXT OF POST-WAR ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN UKRAINE

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Abstract. This comprehensive analysis delves into the transformative role of accounting in Ukraine's post-war economic recovery. It explores the challenges faced by accountants in adapting to new regulatory frameworks, operational difficulties, and uncertainties arising from the war. The study highlights the importance of accounting in assessing damages, controlling budget funds, supporting investment projects, and developing digital technologies. It also proposes measures to address the challenges faced by accountants, such as strengthening professional training, developing guidelines, and fostering cooperation with state authorities. The analysis identifies key challenges for accountants, including changes in legislation, operational difficulties, and the need to assess damages and ensure transparency. It also emphasizes the importance of digital technologies in modernizing accounting practices and enhancing efficiency. The study concludes that the successful transformation of accounting functions and tasks is crucial for Ukraine's economic recovery. By implementing effective accounting practices and utilizing digital technologies, Ukraine can ensure the transparency, reliability, and completeness of financial information, which is essential for attracting investment and fostering sustainable development.

Keywords: *accounting, Ukraine, post-war recovery, challenges, adaptation, regulations, operational difficulties, digital technologies, transparency, control, investment, support.*

Over the past 5 years, from 2019 to the present day, Ukraine has been experiencing the negative impact of global economic trends, necessitating a shift to meet new market conditions and adapt to changing lifestyles. Initially, the COVID-19 pandemic [1] triggered a significant economic downturn, altering the country's trajectory. Following this, the ongoing full-scale war against Ukraine has caused extensive damage to the nation's economy and infrastructure. As Ukraine looks to the future, economy recovery will be of paramount importance in the post-war period. In this context, the accounting will be essential, providing reliable insights into companies' financial positions, performance, and overall business outcomes. The evolving business landscape and changing accounting practices have introduced a series of new challenges, compelling accountants to adjust to this dynamic environment.

According to V.M. Zhuk, the functions of accounting remain traditional. However, he notes that the national accounting methodology tends to follow a conservative path of "least resistance." This approach prioritizes only those functions that view accounting as a technique for compiling and presenting information about economic activity to interested users. The preparation of this information is regulated by formal "rules of the game." Unfortunately, this mindset does not foster recognition of the essential role that accounting plays in the effective functioning of the economy [2]. Table 1 provides analysis and groups of accounting functions and tasks, and presents their major transformations.

Table 1. The list and groups of functions and tasks of accounting that have already emerged

№	Functions performed by accounting	Tasks of accounting
1	Assessing damage and identifying needs	<p><i>Detailed accounting of destruction:</i> It is essential to provide an accurate assessment of the damage caused by the war, including the destruction of fixed assets, inventory, receivables, and other impacted items.</p> <p><i>Accounting for humanitarian aid:</i> Accurate records should be maintained regarding the humanitarian aid received, including its distribution and usage.</p> <p><i>Identification of recovery needs:</i> Analyzing the collected data, it is possible to identify priority areas for economic recovery and determine the necessary investments.</p>
2	Control over the use of budget funds	<p><i>Transparency in fund usage:</i> Accounting practices must ensure clear visibility regarding how budget funds allocated for economic recovery are utilized.</p> <p><i>Preventing corruption:</i> Implementing an effective internal control system is essential to prevent the misuse of budget funds.</p> <p><i>Cost optimization:</i> Conducting a detailed cost analysis will help optimize the use of budget funds and enhance the effectiveness of the recovery efforts.</p>
3	Support for investment projects	<p><i>Evaluation of investment projects:</i> Accounting plays a crucial role in assessing the financial feasibility of investment projects aimed at economic recovery.</p> <p><i>Control over investment project implementation:</i> It is essential to monitor the ongoing implementation of investment projects to ensure that they are completed on time.</p> <p><i>Attracting investments:</i> Financial statements prepared following international standards can enhance investor confidence and help attract additional funds for economic recovery.</p>
4	Development of digital technologies in accounting	<p><i>Automation of accounting processes:</i> The widespread adoption of digital technologies will automate routine accounting tasks, reducing errors and increasing the efficiency of accountants.</p> <p><i>Cloud technologies:</i> Utilizing cloud technologies will allow access to accounting information from any device, which is especially important in a distributed work environment.</p> <p><i>Blockchain:</i> Blockchain technology can enhance the transparency and security of public finance and humanitarian aid accounting.</p>

The accounting community faces several challenges in performing their functions to solve various tasks. Consider the following:

- Adaptation to new regulations. Accountants must continuously monitor changes in legislation and adjust internal accounting practices accordingly.
- Maintaining records in an unstable environment. It is essential to ensure the accuracy and reliability of accounting information amid constant changes.
- Damage and needs assessment. Accountants are required to participate in evaluating war-related damages and identifying recovery needs.
- Ensuring transparency and openness. There is a critical need for transparency in the use of budget funds, investments, and humanitarian aid.
- Development of digital competences. Accountants should actively utilize digital tools to automate processes and enhance work efficiency.

Analyzing the impact of military operations on accounting practices in Ukraine, it is evident that the role of an accountant remains invaluable. As previously mentioned, martial law in Ukraine has significantly altered the business landscape and, consequently, accounting practices [3]. The war has introduced several new challenges that require accountants to adapt to changing conditions. The study has identified the main impacts:

1. Changes in the regulatory framework (legislation):

- Tax legislation. This includes modifications to regulations, tax rates, tax privileges, deadlines for tax payments, and the simplification of certain reporting procedures.
- Labor legislation. Changes in remuneration rules, the dismissal of employees during martial law, and special considerations for mobilized employees must be noted.
- Civil legislation. Amendments have also affected the rules governing contractual relations, leases, inventory, and other areas.

Operational difficulties caused by martial law in Ukraine:

- Business relocation. Many companies were compelled to move to safer regions, necessitating the reissuing of documents and changes in registration.
- Logistical challenges. The delivery of goods and services has been complicated by disruptions in power and communication.
- Cost structure changes. Increased security, logistics, and utility costs have led to alterations in the overall cost structure for businesses.

3. Uncertainty of the future:

- Forecasting challenges arise from the difficulty in making long-term financial plans due to high levels of uncertainty and unforeseen events.
- There are increased risks including potential asset losses, interruptions in production processes, and decreased demand for products.

To address these challenges, the authors of the study propose the following measures:

- Strengthening the professional training of accountants by organizing special courses and training sessions focused on current issues related to accounting under martial law.
- Developing practical guidelines, manuals, and methodological materials to assist accountants in tackling their daily tasks.
- Fostering cooperation with state authorities and encouraging accountants to actively participate in the development and improvement of accounting legislation.
- Implementing modern technologies and software to automate accounting processes and enhance financial information analysis.

Martial law has introduced significant changes to the legal regulations, taxation, and accounting practices in Ukraine. Accountants are now facing new challenges that demand a high level of professionalism and adaptability. However, through the combined efforts of accountants, government agencies, and professional communities, it is possible to overcome these difficulties and maintain accounting stability in the country.

There are still quite a few questions and specific challenges faced by accountants in Ukraine, such as changes in tax legislation, relocation of business, change of suppliers and customers, complications with the delivery of goods and services. Destruction of infrastructure, restrictions on access to electricity and communication complicate accounting, work without access to electricity and Internet resources makes most accounting and financial processes impossible.

The opportunities for accountants to contribute to the reconstruction of a country is extremely important and relevant. Assessing the damage caused by war is a difficult task, as many assets may be completely destroyed or lost. The need for documentary evidence to receive compensation requires careful and professional processing of legally defined documents that may be lost as a result of hostilities.

The issue of digital technologies in the modernization of accounting practice in Ukraine is becoming more urgent and a priority.

The article focuses mainly on the challenges and opportunities faced by accountants in the post-war context of Ukraine. We delve into the specific challenges of war, such as rule changes, force

majeure, operational difficulties, and uncertainty. We also highlight the challenges and opportunities for accountants to play a critical role in the country's economic recovery by providing accurate financial information, supporting investment projects and implementing digital technologies.

Transforming accounting functions and tasks is essential for the post-war economic recovery of Ukraine. Modern digital technologies and international accounting standards offer ample opportunities to establish an effective accounting system. This system will ensure transparency, reliability and completeness of information about the financial condition of enterprises and the state as a whole in order to restore and determine the economic direction.

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